

# Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan

Creating our Sustainable Future



Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Natural Resources

December 2008

Protecting our environment.



# *Ontario is taking action on climate change.*

Faced with the reality of world-wide climate change, governments today have a clear choice: do nothing; or embrace the transition to a low carbon, green future.

Ontario has chosen to be a leader – and we have a plan. Launched by Premier Dalton McGuinty in June 2007, **Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan** includes tough – but achievable – targets for reducing greenhouse gases:

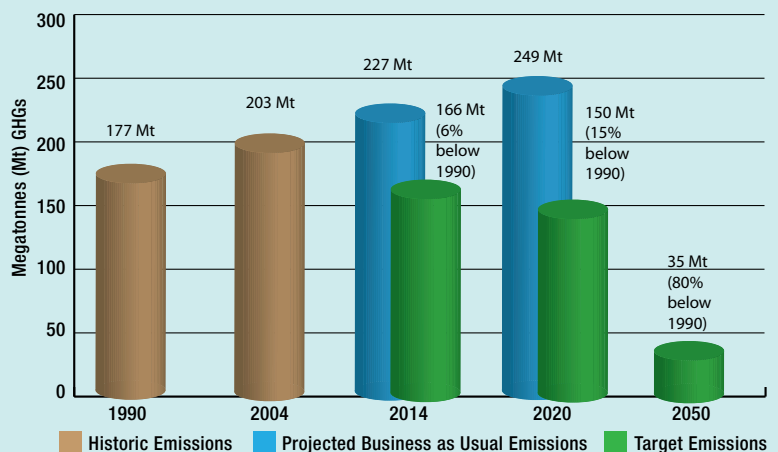
- \* **6 per cent reduction (based on 1990 levels) by 2014**
- \* **15 per cent by 2020**
- \* **80 per cent by 2050.**

In the document you will find information on the steps which Ontario is taking to fight Climate Change. You can find more information on **Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan**, and our first **Annual Report**, on our website: [www.ontario.ca/environment](http://www.ontario.ca/environment).

*Working together, Ontario can and will reduce our carbon footprint. Our goals are tough, but realistic. They're necessary – and achievable.*

The Ontario government is doing its part by setting targets and putting in place programs to help us meet our goals. We're working with other governments – and with you.

Comparison of GHG Projection Scenarios and Ontario Targets



Source: Ontario Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets: A Technical Brief, June 2007, Government of Ontario

# Creating a Green Energy Future



Pictured above is the coal-fired Lakeview Generating Station in Mississauga as it was being demolished in June 2006. By the end of 2014, Ontario will cease to burn coal at the province's four remaining coal-fired generating stations.

*Coal-fired electricity is one of the province's largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, so Ontario will stop burning coal at our four remaining coal-fired generating stations by the end of 2014. This could reduce GHG emissions by up to 30 megatonnes.*

*Ontario is the first place in North America to take this step.*

## *We're getting there.*

- \* Ontario is on target to sign contracts for at least 2,700 megawatts of new, renewable power by 2010.
- \* Small power producers can access 20-year fixed price contracts for projects that use renewable sources, like solar, wind, biomass or water power. By September 1, 2008, contracts under renewable energy supply measures had been signed for more than 500 MW of solar power, one of the largest commitments in North America.
- \* In 2003, wind turbines were in operation in Ontario, with a total capacity of 15 MW. As of September 1, 2008, there were 330 turbines (totaling 521 MW) online, with another 345 turbines under construction.
- \* You can get a full rebate of the Retail Sales Tax paid on eligible solar, wind, micro hydro-electric and geothermal equipment installed in residential buildings by December 31, 2009. There's also a sales tax exemption on eligible EnergyStar® household appliances and light bulbs until August 31, 2009.
- \* Under Ontario's Home Energy Audit and Retrofit Program, you can receive up to \$5,000 per household for home energy improvements and related equipment. As of September 2008, more than 78,000 home energy audits and nearly 20,000 retrofits had been completed.

Photo courtesy of Dan Hahn, Ministry of the Environment





# MoveOntario 2020

*One of the most ambitious transportation plans in the history of Ontario is underway.*

In 2007, the province announced MoveOntario 2020: a transportation plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The province will provide \$11.5-billion of a total \$17.5-billion in funding for 902 kilometres of new or improved rapid transit. Improved transit and transportation means less time spent in traffic, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and more time with family and friends.



## Moving ahead!

- **Creating Metrolinx** to develop a comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A draft plan was released to the public in September 2008.
- Streamlining the environmental assessment process to get public transit projects up and running sooner.
- Committing \$744 million to Quick Win projects recommended by Metrolinx to provide short-term benefits and lay the foundation for future expansion.
- Providing \$870-million to Toronto and York Region for an 8.6-km extension of the Toronto-York Spadina subway to York University and the City of Vaughan.
- **Expanding GO Transit**, with 35 new bi-level rail coaches, new double-deck buses along Highway 407, and the first GO Transit double-tiered parking structure in Burlington opened in Summer 2008.

A goal of the Metrolinx transportation plan is to see 75 per cent of residents in the GTHA living within two kilometres of a dedicated transit line, up from 42 per cent today. When fully completed MoveOntario 2020 sees people taking 800 million new transit trips per year and taking 300 million car trips off the roads.

## Did you know?

- You can get a Retail Sales Tax rebate of up to \$2,000 when purchasing a hybrid vehicle.
- The province has exempted bicycles and bike helmets from the Retail Sales Tax.
- We have introduced legislation that will limit the maximum speed of large trucks to 105 kilometres per hour.
- Ontario is also working to develop a Low Carbon Fuel Standard.



# Grow Green

## *More Sustainable Cities and Towns ...*

In Southern Ontario, the **Greenbelt Plan** protects 1.8 million acres of environmentally sensitive and agricultural lands from development – an area larger than Prince Edward Island. Now, local municipalities are putting the government's Greenbelt policies in place ... and there's more.

- \* In June 2006, the government released the first growth plan prepared under the **Places to Grow** legislation – the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It's a 25-year vision that calls for the creation of more compact, complete and sustainable communities, with the right mix of housing, jobs and community services.
  - \* We have updated the Ontario Building Code, so that every new home and building must be more energy efficient. Under the new code, a typical new house built in 2007 is about 21 per cent more energy efficient than a house built according to the old code's standards.
  - \* **The Pick Ontario Freshness Strategy** is helping raise awareness of buying locally produced foods.
  - \* We're **planting 50 million** trees by 2020 in Southern Ontario, and 100,000 trees in cities and urban areas by 2010. So far 1.28 million trees have been planted under the 50 million trees plan and more than 24,000 trees planted under the urban greening initiative.
  - \* In July 2008, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that Ontario will protect at least 225,000 square kilometres of the Far North Boreal region. Trees absorb carbon and help us fight climate change.
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# Creating Jobs by Going Green

Ontario is providing funding and support to companies that are creating green jobs and products to ensure our success in the low-carbon economy of the future.

- \*The **Next Generation of Jobs Funds** (NGOJF), launched in March 2008, will invest \$1.15-billion over the next five years to support research, development and commercialization in innovative industries
- \*The NGOJF Jobs and Investment Program targets investments to support business expansion and retention and attract foreign investment.
- \*The NGOJF Strategic Opportunities Program supports marketing, advocacy, research and development.

- \*The **Ontario Research Fund** is a four-year \$625 million program, turning leading-edge research into innovative goods and services that boost Ontario's economy. As of September 1, 2008, \$173 million has flowed for ORF – Research Infrastructure projects and \$48 million has gone toward ORF – Research Excellence projects.

Green, clean technology is the growth opportunity for the future. Ontario is a leader in some key clean technology sectors including solar power, wind power, biofuels, green buildings and personal transportation.

*For more information on these funds go to:*  
[www.ontario.ca/environment](http://www.ontario.ca/environment)



# Making Industry Greener

One effective way to reduce industrial GHG emissions is to use a unique approach called “cap and trade”.

Under cap and trade, government gives corporations “allowances” which limit the amount of GHG they can emit. Companies that reduce their emissions limits more than required have “surplus” allowances they can sell or bank for future use.

Companies that do not have enough allowances can either reduce their emissions, buy allowances on the market or purchase credits from an approved emissions offset project.

As government gradually lowers emissions limits, industries will find it more economical to upgrade to new, low carbon technology than to buy allowances or credits.

The Ontario government is now working closely with other North American jurisdictions to develop a common trading system. A common system will help Ontario industries stay competitive, while reducing GHG emissions sufficiently to meet the province's future reduction targets.



# Adapting to Climate Change

The effects of climate change are already here. Weather patterns, water levels and growing seasons are changing in many places, even as we work to address the causes of climate change.

The Ontario government has a responsibility to help people and communities adapt to climate change.

In 2007, Ontario established the **Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation**, made up of 11 leading scientists and environmental experts. The government has asked the panel for its recommendations on the path forward.

In January 2008, Premier Dalton McGuinty attended a Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in Vancouver, sponsored by the Council of the Federation. The Premier also hosted a national adaptation summit in Spring 2008. It brought together more than 100 scientific, academic, engineering, community, and government representatives from across Canada. One of the strongest themes to emerge was the need to “mainstream” adaptation into the government “policies” and decision-making processes.



# We're Working With Others

Ontario is aiming to be a leader in the fight against climate change, and we're working across borders and with all levels of government.

✱ Ontario is a member of **Western Climate Initiative (WCI)**, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)** and the **Midwest Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (MGA)**.

✱ In June 2008, **Ontario and Quebec** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to develop a regional cap and trade system for implementation as early as 2010.

✱ Ontario has joined **The Climate Registry**, and is forging links with other provinces, the U.S. and Mexico.

✱ In August 2007, the **Council of the Federation** agreed to focus its annual meeting on energy and climate change. At this meeting, the Premiers agreed to implement energy conservation strategies and to reduce GHG emissions within their own jurisdictions, according to each province's and territory's plan for climate change.

Ontario is also providing support to non-governmental organizations who deliver community-based projects to help Ontarians reduce their carbon footprint.

## We can all help make a difference. All our actions add up!

Find out how to take advantage of Ontario's climate change programs, including rebates and rewards – and find out what you can do at home and at work – by visiting:

**[www.additupontario.ca](http://www.additupontario.ca)**

**[www.ontario.ca/environment](http://www.ontario.ca/environment)**

**additup**

